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Macroeconomic policy questions: science and technology for development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid A. **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 84 (c) (see A/57/529, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 12th, 17th, 38th, 41st and 44th meetings, on 17 and 24 October, 20 November and 9 and 11 December 2002. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.12, 17, 38, 41 and 44).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.3 and A/C.2/57/L.61

2. At the 12th meeting, on 17 October, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Biotechnology World Forum: Chile 2003" (A/C.2/57/L.3), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Convinced* that recent technological innovations during the past two decades in the field of biotechnology have created new opportunities, inter alia, in agriculture, livestock and aquaculture, improved human health and enhanced protection of the environment, and recalling the interest of the international community in promoting this new knowledge for the benefit of all humankind,

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"*Stressing* that international cooperation, including North-South as well as South-South cooperation, is an important element that offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustainable development, and for ensuring their effective and meaningful participation in the emerging global economic system,

"*Recognizing* the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in the field of environmentally sound management of biotechnology,

"*Recalling* that intergovernmental cooperation in science and technology is an important tool to enhance international cooperation and, in this context, Agenda 21 recognized the potential of biotechnology to contribute to sustainable development,

"*Recalling also* the recommendations, in particular paragraph 42, of the plan of implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002.

"1. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Government of Chile to host the Biotechnology World Forum, which is to be held in Concepción, Chile, in December 2003, and the preparatory work for the Forum carried out under the auspices of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;

"2. *Stresses* the importance of facilitating access and transfer of knowledge and technology based on concessional, preferential and favourable terms to the developing countries, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights and the necessities of developing countries, with the objective of enhancing their technological capacities, productivity and competitiveness in the world market;

"3. *Encourages* the active participation of Member States, all relevant entities of the United Nations system, business and private sector representatives and other relevant stakeholders in the Biotechnology World Forum, in accordance with the rules of procedure governing meetings of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;

"4. *Invites* all parties that are in a position to do so to provide financial support to enable the participation of experts and representatives from developing countries in the Biotechnology World Forum;

"5. *Requests* the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to provide a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the outcome of the Biotechnology World Forum, including, in cooperation with the secretariats of other relevant international organizations and conventions, recommendations and assessment actions to contribute to the identification of recommendations and assessments on initiatives, and to encourage international cooperation in meeting the objectives of chapter 16 of Agenda 21 in the field of biotechnology."

3. At the 41st meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Abdellah Benmellouk (Morocco), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Global technology forum: Chile 2003" (A/C.2/57/L.61), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.3.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.61 (see para. 16, draft resolution I).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.61, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.3 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.7 and A/C.2/57/L.42

6. At the 12th meeting, on 17 October, the representative of Switzerland, also on behalf of Tunisia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Summit on the Information Society"(A/C.2/57/L.7). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yemen joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 56/183 of 21 December 2001,

"*Recalling* its plenary meeting devoted to information and communication technologies for development, held in New York, from 17 to 18 June 2002,

"*Welcoming* the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society undertaken at national level, and encouraging all countries to intensify their work,

"*Encouraging* non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector to further contribute to and actively participate in the intergovernmental preparatory process of the Summit and in the Summit itself,

"*Welcoming* the outcome of the regional conference, held at Bamako from 25 to 30 May 2002,

"*Also welcoming* the results of the first meeting of the intergovernmental preparatory committee, held in Geneva from 1 to 5 July 2002,

"*Further welcoming* the decision of the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force to contribute actively to the preparatory process for the Summit and, to that end, to hold its next meeting at Geneva on 21 and 22 February 2003,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council on the ongoing preparatory process for the Summit;

"2. *Invites* the Members States concerned to participate actively in the regional conferences to be held in Bucharest in November 2002, in Santo Domingo in January 2003 and in Tokyo in January 2003;

"3. *Urges* all relevant United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organizations, including international and regional

institutions, to further their cooperation in and support to the preparatory process of the Summit;

"4. *Recommends* that all actors involved adopt an integrated and coordinated approach to addressing the needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed among them;

"5. *Requests* the International Telecommunication Union, in the context of its leading managerial role in the preparatory process of the Summit, in close cooperation with the Department for Public Information of the Secretariat and in coordination with other information offices of the United Nations system, to launch a public information campaign to raise global awareness of the Summit, including through reprioritization of its budget and through voluntary contributions;

"6. *Reiterates its call* to the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the International Telecommunication Union to support the preparations for and the holding of the Summit, as well as to facilitate the effective participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in the regional meetings to be held in the first half of 2003, the preparatory meetings, to be held in 2003, and the Summit itself;

"7. *Invites* countries to send representation at the highest political level to the Summit;

"8. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to inform all heads of State and Government of the importance of the forthcoming Summit;

"9. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union to submit to the General Assembly for information, at its fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the preparations for the Summit."

7. At the 38th meeting, on 20 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Abdellah Benmellouk (Morocco), introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Summit on the Information Society" (A/C.2/57/L.42), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.7.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.42 (see para. 16, draft resolution II).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.42, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.7 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.10 and Rev.1

10. At the 17th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of the United States of America, also on behalf of Japan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity" (A/C.2/57/L.10). Subsequently, Australia and Norway joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Noting* the growing dependence of Governments, businesses, other organizations and individual users on information technologies for the provision of essential goods and services, the conduct of business and the exchange of information,

"*Recognizing* that the need for cybersecurity increases as countries increase their participation in the digital economy,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 55/63 of 4 December 2000 and 56/121 of 19 December 2001,

"*Aware* that effective cybersecurity is not merely a matter of government or law enforcement practices, but must be addressed through prevention and supported throughout society,

"*Further aware* that technology alone cannot ensure cybersecurity and that a priority must be given to cybersecurity planning and management throughout society,

"*Recognizing* that, appropriate to their roles, Governments, businesses, other organizations and individual owners and users of information technologies must be aware of relevant cybersecurity risks and preventive measures, and must assume responsibility and take steps to enhance the security of those information technologies,

"*Noting* that, as a result of increasing interconnectivity, information systems and networks are now exposed to a growing number and a wider variety of threats and vulnerabilities which raise new security issues for all computer users,

"*Noting* the work of international and regional organizations on enhancing cybersecurity and the security of information technologies, including the Statement on the Security of Information and Communications Infrastructures, adopted at the Fifth Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications and Information Industry, which was held in Shanghai, China, on 29 and 30 May 2002, the Guidelines for the Security of Information Systems and Networks: Towards a Culture of Security, adopted by the Council of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on 25 July 2002, and the document entitled 'Network and information security: proposal for a European policy approach', issued by the Commission of the European Communities on 6 June 2001 and transmitted to the European Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions,

"1. *Adopts* the principles annexed to the present resolution with a view to creating a global culture of cybersecurity;

"2. *Invites* Member States to take into account these principles in their efforts to develop, throughout their societies, a culture of cybersecurity in the application and use of information technologies;

"3. *Requests* Member States to take these principles and the need for a global culture of cybersecurity into account in their preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held at Geneva in December 2003.

"**Annex**

"**Principles for creating a global culture of cybersecurity**

"Rapid advances in information technology have changed the way Governments, businesses, other organizations and individual users who develop, own, provide, manage, service and use information systems and networks ('participants') must approach cybersecurity. A global culture of cybersecurity will require that all participants address the following nine complementary principles:

"(a) *Awareness*. Participants should be aware of the need for security of information systems and networks and what they can do to enhance security;

"(b) *Responsibility*. Participants are responsible for the security of information systems and networks in a manner appropriate to their individual roles. They should review their own policies, practices, measures and procedures regularly, and should assess whether they are appropriate to their environment;

"(c) *Response*. Participants should act in a timely and cooperative manner to prevent, detect and respond to security incidents. They should share information about threats and vulnerabilities, as appropriate, and implement procedures for rapid and effective cooperation to prevent, detect and respond to security incidents. This may involve cross-border information sharing and cooperation;

"(d) *Ethics*. Given the pervasiveness of information systems and networks in modern societies, participants need to respect the legitimate interests of others and recognize that their action or inaction may harm others;

"(e) *Democracy*. Security should be implemented in a manner consistent with the values recognized by democratic societies, including the freedom to exchange thoughts and ideas, the free flow of information, the confidentiality of information and communication, the appropriate protection of personal information, openness and transparency;

"(f) *Risk assessment*. All participants should conduct periodic risk assessments that identify threats and vulnerabilities; are sufficiently broad-based to encompass key internal and external factors, such as technology, physical and human factors, policies and third-party services with security implications; allow determination of the acceptable level of risk; and assist in the selection of appropriate controls to manage the risk of potential harm to information systems and networks in the light of the nature and importance of the information to be protected;

"(g) *Security design and implementation*. Participants should incorporate security as an essential element in the planning and design, operation and use of information systems and networks;

"(h) *Security management*. Participants should adopt a comprehensive approach to security management based on risk assessment that is dynamic, encompassing all levels of participants' activities and all aspects of their operations;

"(i) *Reassessment*. Participants should review and reassess the security of information systems and networks, and should make appropriate modifications to security policies, practices, measures and procedures that include addressing new and changing threats and vulnerabilities."

11. At the 44th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Abdellah Benmellouk (Morocco), informed the Committee of the outcome of the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.10 and drew its attention to a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/57/L.10/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of A/C.2/57/L.10 and Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.10/Rev.1 (see para. 16, draft resolution III).

13. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.2/57/SR.44).

14. At the same meeting, statements regarding the sponsorship of the draft resolution were made by the representatives of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Dominican Republic, Angola, Indonesia and Suriname (see A/C.2/57/SR.44).

D. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

15. At its 44th meeting, on 11 December, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the documents under the sub-item on which no proposals had been submitted (see para. 17).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

16. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Global biotechnology forum: Chile 2003

The General Assembly,

Underlining that intergovernmental cooperation in science and technology is an important tool with which to enhance international cooperation,

Stressing that international cooperation, including North-South as well as South-South cooperation, is an important means of offering viable opportunities to developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustainable

development, and of ensuring their effective and meaningful participation in the emerging global economic system,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] as well as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety[2] to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling also the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[3]

Taking note of decision IDB.26/Dec.__ adopted by the Industrial Development Board of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization at its twenty-sixth session, held at Vienna from 19 to 21 November 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Government of Chile to host a global biotechnology forum in December 2003 for multi-stakeholder discussions under the auspices of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in cooperation with other relevant organizations, and to take adequate measures towards its successful organization;

2. *Encourages* interested Member States to work with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, inter alia, through regional preparatory meetings and discussions with the Secretariat, to ensure that the forum has realistic objectives and produces useful outcomes, as related to the mandate of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in its medium-term programme framework, 2002-2005;

3. *Also encourages* interested Member States to consider providing financial or other support to the forum and/or to the regional preparatory meetings;

4. *Invites* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to include in the report of its Director-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a section on the outcomes of the forum.

Draft resolution II
World Summit on the Information Society

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/183 of 21 December 2001,

Recalling also the meeting of the General Assembly devoted to information and communication technologies for development, held in New York on 17 and 18 June 2002,[4]

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[1] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre, June 1992).

[2] See UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[4] See A/56/PV.101-104.

Welcoming the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society undertaken at the national and regional levels, and encouraging all countries to intensify their work,

Welcoming also the regional conference held in Bamako from 25 to 30 May 2002, in the context of the preparatory process of the Summit,

Welcoming further the establishment of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on the Information Society, and encouraging Member States to support it in accomplishing its task,

Welcoming the convening of the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee, held at Geneva from 1 to 5 July 2002,

Welcoming also the decision of the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force to contribute actively to the preparatory process for the Summit and, to that end, to hold its next meeting at Geneva on 21 and 22 February 2003,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary General containing the report of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, on the ongoing preparatory process for the World Summit on the Information Society;[5]

2. *Invites* the Member States concerned to participate actively in the regional conferences to be held under the auspices of the regional commissions in Bucharest in November 2002 and in Santo Domingo and Tokyo in January 2003,

3. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector to contribute further to, and actively participate in, the intergovernmental preparatory process for the Summit and in the Summit itself, according to the modalities of participation established by the Preparatory Committee;

4. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organizations, including international and regional institutions, as well as the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, to enhance their cooperation in and support to the preparatory process for the Summit;

5. *Recommends* that the occasion of the World Summit on the Information Society be used for arranging events related to the Summit;

6. *Recommends also* that, while addressing the whole range of relevant issues related to the information society, all actors involved adopt a coordinated approach to addressing the needs of all countries, including developing countries, in particular the least developed countries;

7. *Requests* the International Telecommunication Union, in the context of its leading managerial role in the preparatory process for the Summit, in close cooperation with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and in coordination with other information offices of the United Nations system, to launch a public information campaign to raise global awareness of the Summit, within the existing resources and through voluntary contributions;

[5] A/57/71-E/2002/52.

8. *Reiterates its call* to the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the International Telecommunication Union to support the preparations for and the holding of the Summit, as well as to facilitate the effective participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in the regional meetings to be held in the first half of 2003, the preparatory meetings to be held at 2003 and the Summit itself;

9. *Invites* countries to send representation at the highest political level to the Summit, which will be held at Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 and at Tunis in 2005;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to inform all heads of State and Government about the importance of the forthcoming Summit;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union to submit to the General Assembly for information, at its fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the preparations for the Summit.

Draft resolution III
Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity

The General Assembly,

Noting the growing dependence of Governments, businesses, other organizations and individual users on information technologies for the provision of essential goods and services, for the conduct of business, and for the exchange of information,

Recognizing that the need for cybersecurity increases as countries increase their participation in the information society,

Recalling its resolution 55/63 of 4 December 2000 and 56/121 of 19 December 2001, on establishing the legal basis for combating the criminal misuse of information technologies,

Recalling also its resolutions 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000, 56/19 of 29 November 2001 and 57/53 of 22 November 2002 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security,

Aware that effective cybersecurity is not merely a matter of government or law enforcement practices, but must be addressed through prevention and supported throughout society,

Further aware that technology alone cannot ensure cybersecurity and that a priority must be given to cybersecurity planning and management throughout society,

Recognizing that, in a manner appropriate to their roles, government, business, other organizations, and individual owners and users of information technologies must be aware of relevant cybersecurity risks and preventive measures and must assume responsibility for and take steps to enhance the security of these information technologies,

Recognizing also that gaps in access to and the use of information technologies by States can diminish the effectiveness of international cooperation in combating the criminal misuse of information technology and in creating a global culture of cybersecurity, and noting the need to facilitate the transfer of information technologies, in particular to developing countries,

Recognizing further the importance of international cooperation to achieve cybersecurity through the support of national efforts aimed at the enhancement of human capacity, increased learning and employment opportunities, improved public services and better quality of life by taking advantage of advanced, reliable and secure information and communications technology and networks and by promoting universal access,

Noting that, as a result of increasing interconnectivity, information systems and networks are now exposed to a growing number and a wider variety of threats and vulnerabilities which raise new security issues for all,

Noting also the work of relevant international and regional organizations on enhancing cybersecurity and the security of information technologies,

1. *Takes note* of the elements annexed to the present resolution, with a view to creating a global culture of cybersecurity;

2. *Invites* all relevant international organizations to consider, inter alia, these elements for the creation of such a culture in any future work on cybersecurity;

3. *Invites* Member States to take into account these elements, inter alia, in their efforts to develop throughout their societies a culture of cybersecurity in the application and use of information technologies;

4. *Invites* Member States and all relevant international organizations to take, inter alia, these elements and the need for a global culture of cybersecurity into account in their preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held at Geneva in December 2003 and at Tunis in 2005;

5. *Stresses* the necessity to facilitate the transfer of information technology and capacity-building to developing countries, in order to help them to take measures in cybersecurity.

Annex

Elements for creating a global culture of cybersecurity

Rapid advances in information technology have changed the way Governments, businesses, other organizations and individual users who develop, own, provide, manage, service and use information systems and networks ("participants") must approach cybersecurity. A global culture of cybersecurity will require that all participants address the following nine complementary elements:

(a) *Awareness.* Participants should be aware of the need for security of information systems and networks and what they can do to enhance security;

(b) *Responsibility.* Participants are responsible for the security of information systems and networks in a manner appropriate to their individual roles.

They should review their own policies, practices, measures and procedures regularly, and should assess whether they are appropriate to their environment;

(c) *Response*. Participants should act in a timely and cooperative manner to prevent, detect and respond to security incidents. They should share information about threats and vulnerabilities, as appropriate, and implement procedures for rapid and effective cooperation to prevent, detect and respond to security incidents. This may involve cross-border information-sharing and cooperation;

(d) *Ethics*. Given the pervasiveness of information systems and networks in modern societies, participants need to respect the legitimate interests of others and recognize that their action or inaction may harm others;

(e) *Democracy*. Security should be implemented in a manner consistent with the values recognized by democratic societies, including the freedom to exchange thoughts and ideas, the free flow of information, the confidentiality of information and communication, the appropriate protection of personal information, openness and transparency;

(f) *Risk assessment*. All participants should conduct periodic risk assessments that identify threats and vulnerabilities; are sufficiently broad-based to encompass key internal and external factors, such as technology, physical and human factors, policies and third-party services with security implications; allow determination of the acceptable level of risk; and assist in the selection of appropriate controls to manage the risk of potential harm to information systems and networks in the light of the nature and importance of the information to be protected;

(g) *Security design and implementation*. Participants should incorporate security as an essential element in the planning and design, operation and use of information systems and networks;

(h) *Security management*. Participants should adopt a comprehensive approach to security management based on risk assessment that is dynamic, encompassing all levels of participants' activities and all aspects of their operations;

(i) *Reassessment*. Participants should review and reassess the security of information systems and networks, and should make appropriate modifications to security policies, practices, measures and procedures that include addressing new and changing threats and vulnerabilities.

* * *

17. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents relating to science and technology for development

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on United Nations system support for science and technology in Latin America and the Caribbean;[6]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the comments of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on United Nations system support for science and technology in Latin America and the Caribbean.[7]

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[6] A/56/370.

[7] A/56/370/Add.1.